

aware of NASA's attempts to track down the remaining national treasures.

Today, Potter County's Moon tree is alive and well, and members of the Coudersport Area Lions Club have agreed to partner with the local government for a dedication ceremony that will bring long-overdue attention to our Moon tree.

We collectively should recognize the importance of NASA's Apollo program, and I want to thank my constituents in Coudersport for working to ensure the Moon trees continue to serve as a living monument to our Nation's first visit to the Moon.

□ 1900

JUSTICE BROUGHT TO OSAMA BIN LADEN

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we, as a Nation, commemorate this historic day that Osama bin Laden was brought to justice or, more appropriately, justice was brought to him. I want to take this occasion to congratulate President Obama and his team, CIA Director Leon Panetta and the members of the CIA and our intelligence community as well as our Nation's military who have worked diligently and tirelessly over the last nearly 10 years to hunt down and eliminate Osama bin Laden. I know that countless man hours and millions of dollars—an incredible effort was put together to make sure that Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda were held accountable for the horrific attacks on the United States of America on 9/11.

Let me say that my heart and my thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families of that horrific day on 9/11. We hope that this, in some way, brings closure to them, as we hope also that it now closes a painful chapter in U.S. history with the elimination of Osama bin Laden. I thank, again, all of those that had a hand in this, particularly the members of our military and intelligence community who worked so hard and carried out this mission flawlessly.

WE WILL PREVAIL IN THE WAR ON TERROR

(Mr. DESJARLAIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Like all Americans, I was relieved to hear the news that the world's most notorious terrorist would no longer be able to pose a threat to those who seek peace and freedom. We owe a great deal of gratitude to our brave men and women serving in uniform, as well as our intelligence officers, for successfully bringing down Osama bin Laden and scoring a major victory in the fight against terrorism. These individuals truly deserve our Nation's deepest appreciation

for the selfless work they do in order to keep us safe.

Unfortunately, this occasion is bittersweet. As we reflect on those that laid down their lives in defending our freedom, these individuals made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure that we enjoy the precious blessings of liberty. While there is nothing that can replace the lives that have been lost, I hope that their loved ones can take some solace in the fact that the man responsible for September 11 has been brought to justice. Yesterday should send a clear message to those that engage in terrorist activities that we will find you and you will pay for your crimes. We are America, a Nation built by and defended by heroes, and we will prevail in the war on terror.

ENDING OUR MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, my first thought when watching the news last night was about the people who have a hole in their hearts and in their homes because of the senseless brutal violence perpetrated by Osama bin Laden. There was 9/11, of course, but also the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, the embassy bombings in east Africa, and the attack on the USS Cole. Osama bin Laden is responsible for so much evil, and I hope that the families of his victims can now find some measure of peace and closure.

Bin Laden is dead, but the terrorism threat that he represents remains alive and well. The network he created continues to thrive. And I believe, Mr. Speaker, that al Qaeda will remain strong as long as we continue our policy of aggressive militarism in the Middle East. I would like to see what happened on Sunday be the beginning of bringing our troops home and removing the very need for military action in the Middle East.

MEDICARE REFORM AND THE DEBT

(Mrs. BLACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BLACK. Last week I held three town hall meetings back in my community, throughout my district; and the number one topic was the staggering national debt. People in my district are angry at Washington that they have allowed the debt to balloon so far out of control. Many understand that big changes have to be made to reduce spending and to address our debt. And while the problem includes billions that have been spent to grow agencies and bloat programs over the years, the big problem is the auto-pilot programs.

Medicare spending is growing at an unsustainable rate of 7.2 percent every year; and unless we start now, Medi-

care goes bankrupt in 9 years, according to the CBO, and in 7 to 19 years, according to the Medicare Trustees Report. Left unchecked, the explosive growth of these programs, especially Medicare, threatens not only the ability of government to keep its promises to the beneficiaries but also the solvency of the Federal Government and the health of the U.S. economy.

Our Republican plan addresses this unsustainable growth while ensuring that our current seniors, those 55 and older, are still taken care of. Our Republican plan attacks the growth. And when we hear the political fodder, I ask, Where is your plan to address Medicare and reduce our debt? The time for leadership on this issue is now, not in 5 to 10 years when Medicare is almost bankrupt. Let us seize this moment and do what is necessary to preserve this vital program and save America from our looming debt crisis.

ELIMINATING OSAMA BIN LADEN

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Let me begin by commending our Commander in Chief, President Barack Obama, and his team of experts who debated and discussed the exercise that eliminated Osama bin Laden. On an issue like this, there are many different points of view, and it takes a person who has the ability to evaluate to take charge. And he made a decision.

We certainly would like to commend the Navy SEALs who did another extraordinary job, just as they did in Somalia when I was there. I was in Somalia the day after the Navy SEALs eliminated the pirates who had hijacked a ship. And I was at a press conference in Mogadishu where I said that when you tread on Americans, this is the result. In the middle of Mogadishu as I left, as you may recall, my plane was fired on by persons who are related to al Qaeda.

Well, let me once again comment that New Jersey, who lost so many people in 9/11 going to the World Trade Center where many of them work, we hope that they will have some peace.

NATIONAL PHYSICAL FITNESS MONTH AND WELLNESS CAUCUS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to recognize the month of May as National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. Since 1983, various individuals and organizations have focused on May as a time to promote awareness of the value of physical activity and the pursuit of happier, healthier, and more productive lives. Chronic diseases, including preventable illnesses like heart disease and stroke,